

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAPE T 00421 041749Z
ACTION SS-25

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-----119076 041809Z /50

O 041618 Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6878
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 421

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, RH
SUBJ: RHODESIA: RESPONSE TO THE FRONT LINE

1. JUDGING FROM EMBASSY REPORTS FROM THE FRONT LINE STATES (DAR 0939, LUSAKA 0670, MAPUTO 0261) DEVELOPMENTS IN SALISBURY HAVE SPURED THESE THREE LEADERS TO PUSH FOR IMMEDIATE MEETING WITH PF IN AN EFFORT TO REVIVE THE AAP. FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS SUCH A STEP WOULD NOT SEEM TO BE ADVISABLE AT THIS STAGE LEAVING US WITH THE PROBLEM OF HOW TO RESPOND TO NYERERE, KAUNDA AND MACHEL.

2. IT OCCURS TO US THAT ONE PART OF OUR RESPONSE COULD BE TO FOLLOW UP NYERERE'S AND MACHEL'S PROFESSED INTEREST IN DRAWING MUZOREWA INTO THE PROCESS. WE COULD POINT OUT TO THE FL PRESIDENTS THAT THE APPROACH MOST LIKELY TO DRAW MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE INTO TALKS WITH NKOMO AND MUGABE IS FOR THE PRESIDENTS
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THEMSELVES OR THE PF LEADERS (ESPECIALLY NKOMO) TO MAKE THE APPROACH FOR DIRECT TALKS BETWEEN THE EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL LEADERS PERHAPS UNDER THE AEGIS OF ONE OF THE FLP'S. (IS THIS A MESSAGE MACHEL MIGHT CONVEY TO THE BISHOP THROUGH PROF. FOLTZ?)

3. IF THE PF AND FLP WERE SUCCESSFUL IN GETTING SUCH A DIALOGUE WITH MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE UNDERWAY, WE AND THE BRITISH COULD PUBLICLY ENDORRSE IT. FURTHERMORE, WE COULD INDICATE (ASSUMING BRITISH AGREE) THAT DAVID OWEN IN HIS TALKS WITH THE BISHOP NEXT MONDAY WOULD ENCOURAGE HIM TO RESPOND FAVORABLY TO SUCH AN INITIATIVE. THE DICUSSIONS BETWEEN THE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL LEADERS WOULD PRESUMABLY BE CONDUCTED NEITHER ON THE BASIS OF THE AAP OR THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT PER SE BUT ON WHAT STEPS NEED TO BE TAKEN TO REACH AN AGREEMENT WHICH IS INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE.

4. BY EMPHASIZING THIS KIND OF PRELIMINARY GO AROUND BEFORE HAVING THE US AND THE UK RE-ENTER THE PICTURE, MIGHT BE A GOOD WAY TO FINESSE FL PRESSURE FOR AN EARLY MEETING AND AVOID HAVING TO CONVEY THE "BAD NEWS." BOWDLER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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